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Access to Abortion

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BULLETIN

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Anti-choicers Seek New Repressive Laws

Abortion Rights Face the Courts

Abortion rights have been before the courts in both the USA and Ontario in the last weeks.

In the United States, the landmark 1973 decision on Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion for women across the country, was upheld by only a 5 to 4 margin by the U.S. Supreme Court. They said that states can bar public employees and hospitals from performing abortions, which could mean an upcoming wave of victorian laws across the U.S. For poor women this may severely restrict their access to abortion, seeing as they can't afford private abortions or a trip out of state.

Also last week the court in Ontario granted an injunction to a woman's boyfriend to prevent her from having an abortion. Barbara Dodd, now in her 15th week of pregnancy, was prevented from having an abortion at any hospital in Ontario. However she has successfully appealed the ruling, in time to have the operation at the Morgentaler clinic. The judge who made the original decision gave no reason for it, contrary to the desires of anti-choice groups, who were looking for a ruling which affirmed the constitutional rights of a fetus. Neither the original injunction nor the successful appeal have made any real changes to the

present legal status of abortion rights in Canada.

The anti-choice movement is looking for a victory in the courts in order to put backwards legislation back on the books, in order to prevent women from controlling their own bodies. Even though, to date, they haven't had that victory, the courts cannot be counted on to hold out against these people. The courts, representing a society which is patriarchal (built on the domination of women) and controlled by men, are likely to cave in eventually. Politicians, busy sidestepping the issue when possible, will eventually

have to face up to the demands for a new law banning abortion.

Against this trinity of anti-choicers, courts and politicians, we have to counter our own grass-roots power. People are still coming out to defend the clinics, as was evident two weeks ago when we came out to the Scott clinic on Gerard st. About 150 anti-choicers came out first to picket the clinic, and then, faced with a well-defended building, leave. They then returned later to take the steps when the pro-choice people were off guard, and carried out their version of "free side-

Native Nations sign Mutual Defense Treaty

Nine Canadian Indian nations signed a mutual defence treaty in northern Québec last week and more are expected to join in. The pact, modeled on NATO, was suggested a few weeks previous by Bernard Ominayak of the Lubicon Lake Indian Nation in Northern Alberta. It commits each nation to come to the aid of the others if they are attacked or threatened by Canadian authorities. The

nations which signed so far include the Lubicon Lake nation, the Grand Council of Crees of Québec, the Innu of Labrador, the Ojibways of Shawanaga First Nation, the Grand Rapids Indian Band, and others. It represents a move to solidify the already strong mutual aid between Native nations in Canada, which will help in defending their land and people from a hostile Canadian government.

Hamburg Cops Break up Squat & Alternative Community

Hamburg municipal authorities and police have moved against the residents of Hafen Strasse (Harbour Street), an area of the city known for counter-culture activities. The residents, some of whom lived in houses and others in trailers, had been working together to create a playground, libraries and neighbourhood action against heroin. The state, of course, thinks that people should have no access to such amenities except through its own auspices.

On May 24 municipal politicians ordered the trailers out of the area, and the owners complied rather than give an assembling riot control force the excuse to destroy the houses along with the trailers. However, three untransportable trailers could not be moved, and the police used this as an excuse to surround the area and subject the residents to attacks with water

cannons. The residents are used to this; water cannons have been used several times in the last few years to damage the houses and attempt to make them unlivable. However, on this occasion the cannons were also used directly against some of the residents who stood on the roofs, clearly attempted murder. Police also threw stones at the residents in an attempt to provoke them into rioting, which would have justified complete destruction of the area.

Eventually the trailers were removed, the area they had occupied leveled, and a wall mural supporting the hunger strike of FRG political prisoners painted over. However, the police had failed to provoke a riot which would have enabled them to destroy the houses. Doubtless they'll try again. (Ecomedia Hamburg)

Police Murder Black Man in New York

Called to assist an asthmatic black man reach the hospital, two white Long Island housing policemen instead handcuffed him and beat him so severely that he died a few hours later. An eyewitness was subsequently arrested and severely beaten by the same cops. The following day, about 700 outraged people, mostly youths, marched peacefully but militantly to the Queensboro Bridge and blockaded it for nearly an hour by standing or sitting at the bridge entrances and exits. Their

slogans included "We want justice!", "Stop the violence" and "No justice, no peace." Afterwards, they marched back to their housing project.

The cops say Richard Luke died of a heart attack due to "crack." They also say two vials of crack fell out of his pocket. His family and friends say he was not the type of person to use drugs. The community vowed continued civil disobedience until the two housing policemen are arrested and justice is served. (Slingshot)

Ecotage Hits Florida

Residents of Oviedo, Florida have begun vandalizing construction equipment to protest the destruction of nature by a local subdivision project, which is turning wilderness along the Econlockhatchee River into a golf course. Twice this month, bulldozers and backhoes have come to a halt on the construction site because someone had put sugar in their fuel tanks (when sugar mixes with gasoline, it clogs the fuel filter and ruins the engine walls; if not caught in time, it can destroy an engine." An anonymous woman has phoned the Orlando Sentinel to say: "We are tired of seeing nature destroyed. Certain pieces of earth-moving equipment have been sabotaged, and this is only the beginning."

This call prompted the Sentinel to acquaint its readers with the growing "ecotage" movement in the USA, which hitherto has operated primarily in the Pacific Northwest. Local liberal environmental groups have denounced the tactic, and are instead lobbying to make half the area a public park. (Orlando Sentinel 26-5-89 pD1.)

Prison Justice Day

LET'S STORM OUR BASTILLES

July 14 marks the 200th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. The bastille was a hated french prison which

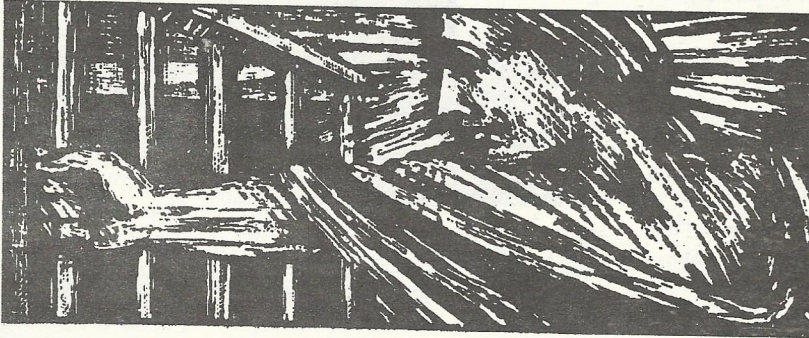
was stormed by the french people during the revolution. Although the french government is trying today to link themselves with the spirit of that revolution, the event itself was a manifestation of popular hatred of the

aristocracy and had little to do with the present day system established in France.

Our own slightly milder version of Bastille day is coming up on August 10th, which is Prison justice Day. Events in Toronto will include a Rock Against Prisons show, demonstrations and a caravan to local prisons. PJD is an annual event which was started by prisoners to commemorate the deaths in custody and push for

better conditions. On August 10, 1974, Eddie Nolan ended his life in solitary confinement in Millhaven

that they combine the struggles of people in psychiatric prisons with those of people in conventional prisons. The



demands include: Provide prisoners with wanted services, information and visits; Public investigations for those killed in prison and police custody; Stop forced transfers and solitary confinement; stop genocide of Native

people; end 25 year sentences and indefinite sentencing; stop forced treatment; close Millhaven, Prison for Women and Oak Ridge, Penetang; Provide AIDS education, bleach, condoms and treatment inside; end imprisonment without trial — no involuntary committal.

prison near Kingston. Eddie was serving a life sentence with still 7 years to go, and had been promised release into general population. When solitary dragged on, he slashed his wrists. On the first anniversary of his death, prisoners at Millhaven held a one day hunger strike and refused to work. This tradition, with support on the outside, has been carried on to this date. This year's demands are exceptional in

people; end 25 year sentences and indefinite sentencing; stop forced treatment; close Millhaven, Prison for Women and Oak Ridge, Penetang; Provide AIDS education, bleach, condoms and treatment inside; end imprisonment without trial — no involuntary committal.

For more information or to help out, write the PJD organizing Cttee., 441 Clinton St., Toronto Ontario, M6G 2Z1.

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walk counselling", which consisted of "swarming" a patient and praying around her while she stood crying and terrified (Toronto Star). This is the kind of "service" they were supposedly offering when they were banned from the sidewalk outside of the Morgentaler clinic. The kind of service one could definitely do without. Because of this the anti-choice movement is claiming that its civil rights, ie the right to abuse

and harrass women, are being denied.

The fight for abortion rights has got to continue on all fronts, but it's clear that our faith must be in ourselves and our ability to defend these rights with or without the courts and police. If we want them we have to be able to defend them against a centuries old church hierarchy which is determined to maintain control of women.

On the good side of things, the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics has started a "sponsor a bigot" cam-

paign, in which you can sponsor anti-choicers when they come out to harrass women. The way you do it is you watch the papers, and for every anti-choicer arrested at their so-called "rescues", you give OCAC a certain amount of money (your choice... for example, \$1 or 25¢). The money is used to fund the choice movement; so when these anti-choicers come out they actually end up fundraising for choice! Send money to OCAC at P.O. Box 753 Stn P, Toronto Ontario, M5S 2Z1.

A REGULAR FEATURE ON ANARCHY IN ACTION

Mutual Aid



areas. The Fourth World advocates such forms of wider cooperation as are needed to insure the quality of all life, but avoids the concentration of power in the hands of a few. It seeks

The Eighth Assembly of the Fourth World will be held at the University of Toronto, August 9-13. Forums will include community economics, organizing for change (personal and community power), bioregions, communication strategies and profound spiritual transformation. Keynote speakers are Ivan Illich, Leopold Kohn and John Papworth.

Founded in 1966, the Fourth World affirms the inalienable rights of urban neighbourhoods and rural villages to make their own decisions about their lives. It affirms the right of distinct ethnic groupings to rule themselves, and seeks to break down all big powers into their ethnic or bioregional

an ecologically balanced world of thousands of small nations, each having localized forms of economic and political management where power is safely dispersed among many.

Registration is \$125 Canadian. Information: School of Living, 3030 Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church Va, USA 22042, 703-237-7507.

Apologies to Our Times for omitting them from the list of Toronto area co-ops printed in the last issue. It is a unionized worker co-op which offers complete printing production services. Contact Our Times at 531-2397.

MEDIA WATCH



Israeli president Herzog's visit was received by both the state and the media with much fanfare. The propaganda spread was outrageous. During the week, we heard all about the "restraint" which Israeli soldiers show in the killing of Palestinian demonstrators, as well as complaints about the lack of coverage for soldiers injured by stone throwers!

The Israeli state is in a political and strategic deadlock. Despite all the violence inflicted on the Palestinians, they have not been able to stifle the Intifadah. Herzog's official visit shows clearly that Israel is seeking support, and is preparing the ground for some kind of all-out assault on the Palestinian people.

CALENDAR

JULY 14 "Le Sang Flamboyant", a film premiere by the Black Secretariat, 394 Euclid Ave. at 8PM. The film tells the story of an African worker who kills his master who had raped his wife. The film respects the dignity of the oppressed and mocks the oppressor. The dialogue is faithful to the poetic rhythms and images of the African people who fashioned the French language into a vehicle to express their own pain and rage (English subtitles). Admission is \$4. For more info call Judy Brooks (416)924-1104.

JULY 19 A benefit in honour of the 10th anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution featuring several guest speakers, a beer garden, Latin American food, and entertainment by Nazka, the Nancy Sinatras and Mustang Sally at Cawartha Square Park (behind 519 Church st.) starting at 5pm. Tickets are \$5. For more info: 922-0852.

New Study Proves! Bosses Worse than Useless

How would you rate your supervisor? Occasionally useless? Usually useless? Totally useless?

An experiment conducted in spring 1988 by the US postal service was designed to measure the effect of supervisory personnel on the postal workforce. According to a recent issue of *Labour Notes*, top USPS officials in Phoenix, Arizona, ordered all supervisors to stay home one day just to see what would happen.

"It was one of the most productive days," *Labour Notes* quotes USPS personnel director David Charters as concluding. The mail moved as usual, nobody had to work overtime, and no customers complained. *Labour Notes* says Charters did state that the experiment "Does not prove that we would be better off without managers" Charters is not quoted as to what he feels the experiment *did* prove. (*Solidarity Bulletin*, Vancouver IWW)